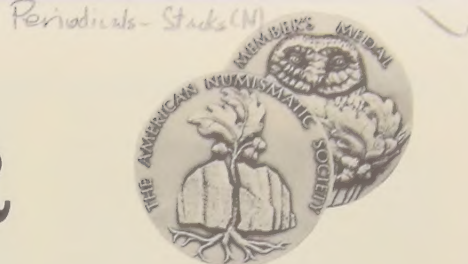


ANS NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



Broadway at 155th Street, New York, NY 10032

212/234-3130

Summer 1981

COMPUTER COMES TO ANS

A new era in research opportunities and collections management was ushered in with the arrival of the Society's in-house computer facility on August 4. Based on the Prime Information-500 processor, the new system provides the potential for on-line access to the entire collection.

Systematic entry of descriptive data on the coins, as well as the accession history record dating back to 1858, is slated to begin in mid-August. It is expected that five years will be required to complete the basic file of information on the existing collections.

For a number of years, the Society has been actively studying the application of computer technology to our curatorial record system, recognizing its potential for greater and more efficient use of our collections for research purposes and far better inventory control over our collections than can be accomplished by hand. Toward this end, the Society became a member of the Museum Computer Network at its inception in 1968 and contributed to studies on the classification of numismatic objects for computerized retrieval systems.

For some time, however, the sheer size of the projected data base, considering the number of objects in the Society's collection (estimated at 800,000-1,000,000) and the amount of information needed about each object to carry out research objectives, constituted a formidable obstacle. A large-scale computer seemed indicated with the attendant high on-going costs and the necessity to adapt our information needs to existing programs.

Corporation for Distributed Systems

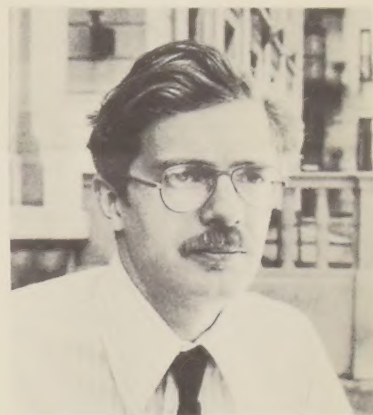
With the rapid development of powerful mini-computers having increasingly greater disk storage capacity, a new

approach to the question was indicated. In the Fall of 1978, Society President Harry Bass initiated discussions between the staff and the Dallas-based systems development firm, the Corporation for Distributed Systems (CDS), with regard to the feasibility of a wholly owned, in-house system to meet the Society's needs. These conferences led to a consultative contract with CDS under which Society research and inventory control requirements were carefully defined for analysis by CDS. In July 1979, CDS issued its report recommending acquisition of an in-house computer system, based on the Prime 500 central processing unit and 300 megabyte disk drive with other peripherals by independent manufacturers, and outlining in some detail the software development which it would undertake to realize the Society's objectives. Finally, and happily, the cost of acquiring the system, including software development, was within the Society's means, based on contributions which had been made for this purpose by Mr. Bass and by the Bass Foundation.

From then through the Spring of 1980 the proposal was reviewed in depth by the Society's staff and members of the Council, as well as by independent experts. Several modifications were made to the proposal as a result of review and in July 1980 an agreement to proceed was signed with CDS.

The past year has been spent on the sometimes frustrating, often exhilarating process of gaining control over an extremely powerful tool. Development, under the direction of Skip Hill, CDS Vice-President for Services, proceeded slowly and in broad outline initially; but with installation of the hardware at CDS in September, the pace accelerated, culminating in a full day review of the entire system in Dallas by President

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RONALD WALDRON JOINS EDITORIAL STAFF

Ronald J. Waldron joined the ANS staff in early June as Assistant Editor, assuming responsibility for the Society's semiannual abstract bibliography, *Numismatic Literature*.

Mr. Waldron, selected from several highly qualified candidates interviewed during May, brings to the position an excellent background in language and translation, as well as research editing, essential to the production of *NL*. He comes to the Society with six years experience in editing foreign language reference books, including over two years researching etymologies for the *American Heritage Dictionary*.

Earlier, Mr. Waldron, who holds an M.A. in Chinese from the University of Hawaii, spent seven years in East, South and Southeast Asia as a translator, teacher and journalist. In addition to several Oriental languages, he reads German, French, Italian and Greek and has served as a contract translator for the U.S. Government (Chinese) and the United Nations (German).

Mr. Waldron, who was born in Brooklyn in 1942, recently returned to New York City where he now lives with his 15 year old son, Richard.

ANS Graduate Seminar Concludes

The 29th annual Graduate Seminar was held at the museum from June 9 to August 8. The seminar provides an opportunity for students of varying age, background and interests to study numismatic methodology and to pursue intensively a research topic of their choice under the supervision of the Society's curatorial staff. This year's group of eleven students was one of the most gregarious in years, and this fact, combined with the high quality of the lectures delivered by outsiders, more than compensated for the absence of a Visiting Scholar.

This year's topics covered the usual broad range, from the sixth century B.C. to the seventeenth A.D. Carmen Arnold-Biucchi studied a recent Sicilian hoard of 487 specimens, concluding that it was buried ca. 450 B.C. or later, and that the hoard supports Kraay's down-dating of the famous "Demareteion." The hoard also included about 120 coins of Messana which were also of interest to Clayton Lehmann. He concluded that the unique "Striding God" issue of Zancle-Messana must have been struck ca. 495 B.C.

Barbara A. Baxter studied the coinage of Beneventum, one of only two gold coinages remaining in the West by the late eighth century. She noted that the gold of Grimoald III (788-806) and Grimoald IV continued the eighth century trend toward debasement, with a slight improvement in standard after the removal of Charlemagne's direct control, and concluded that there is no evidence to support some scholars' claims of a lacuna in the production of gold under Grimoald IV.

Richard A. Billows reexamined the chronology of Rome's earliest silver coinage, which is inextricably linked to the contemporary Campanian and South Italian silver. He formulated a new relative chronology which would permit Pliny's date of 269 B.C. for the earliest Republican silver to be taken as literally correct.

Janet C. Dockendorff studied the Armenak Hoard (IGCH 1423) of some 1,900 silver pieces of Alexander and his successors. Her focus was on the civic issues, which would seem to date the hoard to ca. 275-270 B.C.

Roger S. Fisher examined the controversial coinage of Aesillas, and was able to demonstrate that it constitutes a unified, compact group; he saw nothing to suggest that the coinage belongs



Carmen Arnold-Biucchi



Barbara A. Baxter



Richard A. Billows



Janet C. Dockendorff



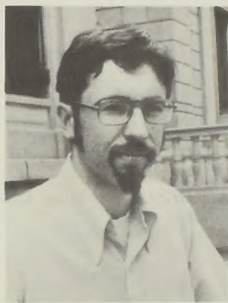
Roger S. Fisher



Cecile E. Korngold



Clayton Lehmann



James P. Niessen



David M. Olster

*Kenneth
S. Sacks*



*Harriet S.
Schwartz*



(continued on page 4)

Wheaton College Collection Published

The Wheaton College Collection of Greek and Roman Coins, by J. David Bishop and R. Ross Holloway, is the latest work to be published by the Society in the series Ancient Coins in North American Collections (ACNAC). The majority of the coins published in this catalogue came to Wheaton College in 1967 as the bequest of Adra M. Newell, widow of Edward T. Newell.

The publication includes 450 coins, of which 327 are Greek issues, the remainder Roman. All are illustrated on 32 plates from photographs taken directly from the coins by ANS Photographer, Michael DiBiase.

The ACNAC Series

The Wheaton College Collection, the third book in the ACNAC Series, is published by the Society as part of its continuing commitment to record in print numismatic material of research value which is not readily accessible. The series conforms to the general format of the Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum fascicules in placing emphasis on the reproduction of the coins and limiting the text to cataloguing information.

Funding for works in this series is provided by the sponsoring institution or individual, with the Society assuming editorial and production responsibilities. Publication of *The Wheaton College Collection* has been supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington D.C.

Fellows of the Society will receive this publication as a perquisite of membership. Other members may take advantage

of the special pre-publication discount offer and order a single copy at 25 percent off list.

The Wheaton College Collection of Greek and Roman Coins, by J. David Bishop and R. Ross Holloway, 32 pages, 32 plates, cloth bound, 7¼ x 10¼, \$30.00 list, publication date—September 15, 1981. Members may use the special discount coupon to order single copies of this book at \$22.50 plus \$1.00 postage and handling for orders received by November 1, 1981.

PALESTINE SYLLOGE REMINDER

Members are reminded that they have until September 1, 1981, to order the latest volume in the Sylloge series at reduced price. *Palestine-South Arabia*, available in September, is published in two bindings: paper over boards at \$100 and buckram cloth at \$125. Members may order single copies at \$75.00 or \$93.75 plus \$1.00 postage and handling until the September 1 deadline.

Palestine-South Arabia is Part 6 in *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum: The Collection of the American Numismatic Society*. The catalogue, prepared by Ya'akov Meshorer of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, publishes the Society's extraordinary Judaean series. Included are the 1,615 ANS coins from ancient Palestine, the Decapolis, Provincia Arabia, Nabataea and South Arabia. Eight separate indices are included to facilitate use of the catalogue.

GEORGE CUHAJ JOINS STAFF

George S. Cuhaj will be joining the Society's staff in September as a data entry clerk with on-going operations responsibility for the Society's newly acquired computer system. A New York resident, he is a senior at Baruch School of Business of the City University of New York.

Mr. Cuhaj is well known regionally and nationally for his prize winning exhibits of transportation tokens and medals, including three First Place in Class awards at ANA Conventions, and has published several articles on tokens and medals.

Mr. Cuhaj has worked part time for the Society as a clerk in the Photography Department since May 1980. During the past year he has also assisted in the preparation of the Society's collection for computerization.

MILDENBERG TO SPEAK IN NYC

Leo Mildenberg of Zurich, Switzerland, will lecture at Rockefeller University this fall in memory of Professor Alfred E. Mirsky, a long-time faculty member and collector of Greek coins.

Mr. Mildenberg's talk, "The Work of the Coin Engraver Kimon of Syracuse," will be presented at 3 P.M., October 17, 1981, at the University's Caspary Auditorium, York Avenue and 66th Street. Mr. Mildenberg, Director of the Numismatic Department of Bank Leu, Zurich, has published extensively on Greek coinage. In 1979 he delivered the Society's Spring Meeting address.

The American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 155th Street
New York NY 10032

Please send me one copy of *The Wheaton College Collection of Greek and Roman Coins*, by J. David Bishop and R. Ross Holloway, at the members' discount price of \$22.50 plus \$1.00 postage and handling. My payment of \$23.50 is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

(Offer valid for orders received by November 1, 1981)

BRITA MALMER TO SPEAK

Brita Malmer, noted authority on mediaeval Scandinavian coinage, will be the guest speaker at the ANS Members' Meeting on October 10, 1981. Her topic on the occasion of the David M. Bullova Memorial Lecture is "Viking Coinage in Scandinavia."

Mrs. Malmer is Professor of Numismatics and Monetary History at the Numismatic Institute in Stockholm. She had previously served as Chief Curator of the Swedish Royal Coin Cabinet. Her book on late mediaeval pennies in Sweden appeared in 1980. In addition she serves as editor for the *Sylloge of 9th-11th Century Coins Found in Sweden*.

The Fall Members' Meeting will be held at the Society's museum, beginning at 3:00 P.M. Refreshments will be served following the talk.

(Seminar, continued from page 2)

elsewhere than in the 90s B.C., with the obvious implications for the chronology of the Athenian New Style coinage.

Cecile E. Korggold undertook a die study of early Abbasid dinars (170-198 A.H.) with a view to distinguishing mints and determining their interrelationships.

James P. Niessen studied the circulation of coins in Transylvania in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. He found evidence for changes in the currencies of Poland and Austria and in Transylvanian foreign policy during the period.

David M. Olster examined the coinage and monetary policy of Leo III. His die study showed just how small was Leo's coinage; the pattern of die linkage also indicated the gradual collapse of the officina system.

In a project related to others of recent years, Kenneth S. Sacks studied the wreathed tetradrachms of Myrina, many of which come from the "Kyme" hoard. Mr. Sacks' post-165 dating of the series is consistent with the chronologies formulated by former Seminar students—for the coins of Magnesia by Nicholas Jones (*ANSMN* 24) and for Kyme itself by John Oakley (*ANSMN* 27, forthcoming).

Harriet S. Schwartz undertook a die study of the "denarii" of Juba II of Mauretania. She concluded that most of his undated issues should be placed in the period A.D. 8-17.

The Seminar is more than an academic experience for both students and staff. Due to circumstances beyond our control the second annual excursion to

Yankee Stadium had to be cancelled, but the summer was not without extracurricular activities. On July 27 both students and staff enjoyed a picnic hosted by Kenneth Sacks in Englewood, New Jersey. An unusually high proportion of the guests were (or claimed to be) naturally left-handed, and this suggested a volleyball game in which the teams were selected on the basis of handedness. The southpaws were badly outgunned although there were no permanent injuries. Three days later an excursion to the Morris-Jumel mansion, one of the oldest houses in Manhattan, was organized, and the seminar concluded with what we hope will become a long-standing tradition, a party organized by the students.

ASSOCIATES ELECTED AT JULY MEETING

Forty-five individuals and two institutions were elected Associate Members of the Society at the July meeting of the Council. Included in this healthy gain are ten foreign members and nine of the participants in the current Graduate Seminar program.

Those elected are David T. Alexander, Danbury, CT; J.C. Altolaquirre, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Robert Bartlett, San Diego, CA; Barbara A. Baxter, Somerville, MA; Robin F. Beningson, New York, NY; Richard A. Billows, Berkeley, CA; Stephen R. Bradley, Terre Haute, IN; Don Canaparo, Aptos, CA; David S. Chartock, Bayside, NY; George R. Constantinople, Washington, DC; Janet Dockendorff, Charlestown, MA; Kenneth V. Eckardt, Fajardo, Puerto Rico; Ali Engin Ekonomi, Santa Barbara, CA; Wafaa Sa'd Elwerdani, Cairo, Egypt; Roger S. Fisher, Ontario, Canada.

Also, Gerald W. Forbes, Woodmont, CT; Glasgow University Library, Glasgow, Scotland; John P. Goddard, Glasgow, Scotland; Orville J. Grady, Omaha, NE; Michael A. Grapin, Emerson, NJ; Great Eastern Numismatic Association, Philadelphia, PA; Robert G.R. Guber, New York, NY; Donald H. Kagin, Des Moines, IA; Francis J. Kelly, Levittown, PA; Geoffrey R.D. King, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Dennis Jay Kroh, West Hollywood, CA; Clayton M. Lehmann, Chicago, IL; Stuart Levine, Sudbury, MA; John MacGregor, Madison, CT; Andrej Malak, Mastic Beach, NY; Frederick F. Nagle, Bedford, NY.

Also, James P. Niessen, Bloomington, NY; David M. Olster, Encino, CA;

BATES, MARTIN ATTEND MUGHAL CONFERENCE

Michael Bates, ANS Curator of Islamic Coins, and Marie Martin, ANS Assistant Editor, joined scholars of Mughal monetary history in early June for a three day conference at Research Triangle Park in North Carolina. Sponsored by the Joint Committee on South Asia of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies, scholars from North America, Europe and India focused upon the imposition of the Mughal imperial monetary system throughout the South Asian subcontinent in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The Mughal emperor Akbar (1556-1605), of Central Asian descent, chose to expand and elaborate upon the indigenous South Asian tradition of coinage. He standardized a trimetallic coinage in gold, silver and copper, which was continued by his three immediate successors (1605-1707), vestiges of which continued to modern times.

Ms. Martin presented a paper analyzing metrological and monetary aspects of Akbar's system. Other topics considered were the integration of conquered states into the Mughal monetary system; imperial currency in western India; merchants and their money; and the supplying of cowries to Mughal India. Mr. Bates, as a discussant, was instrumental in focusing discussion of many of the papers on numismatic issues, often a difficult task in the company of economic historians.

The conference was organized by John F. Richards of Duke University, who arranged for three of India's most outstanding economic historians to attend: Dr. Irfan Habib of Aligarh University, Dr. Om Prakash of the Delhi School of Economics, and Prof. Ashin Das Gupta of Vishva Bharati University.

Dale R. Osborn, New Castle, DE; George R. Prefer, North Bellmore, NY; Andre V.L. Renard, Ans, Belgium; Paula J. Richardson, London, England; James N. Rose, North Miami, FL; Kenneth S. Sacks, Madison, WI; Marilee L. Sager, Hamden, CT; Harriet S. Schwartz, Somerville, MA; Robert B. Shepherd, De Kalb, IL; David W. Sorenson, Schenectady, NY; David Stephenson, Sandtom, South Africa; William W. Vincent, Jr., Smyrna, GA; Deborah I. Williamson, Sophia, WV; and Karl-Rudolf Wingender, Trier, W. Germany.

(continued on page 6)



Consul General Hartmut Schulze-Boysen with Society Director Leslie Elam and Chief Curator William Metcalf

BATES CONSULTS ON KUWAIT COLLECTION

Michael Bates, Curator of Islamic Coins, spent two weeks in Kuwait in April and May as a member of an international team of museum consultants to the National Museum of Kuwait, which is about to move into a new building complex. His particular responsibility was to examine the large collection of Islamic coins of Shaikh Nasser Al-Sabah which has been offered to the Museum on permanent loan, and to advise on storage and exhibition of the collection. The consulting team, with members from the U.S., Britain, France, Canada and the Phillipines, was organized by the International Council of Museums and UNESCO.

Most of Mr. Bates's work was done at the home of Shaikh Nasser, where he enjoyed the generous hospitality of the Shaikh (an ANS member) and his wife Shaikha Hussa. The collection is one of the largest private collections in the world, with special strength in the coinage of Egypt from the Muslim conquest to the present day. It will be exhibited with Shaikh Nasser's magnificent collection of Islamic art, also to be lent to the Kuwait Museum. A catalogue of the collection and a research facility for its study are also among Mr. Bates's proposals to the Museum.

After their work in Kuwait, the consultants assembled at ICOM head-

STAHL AT ANA

Alan Stahl, Assistant Curator of Mediaeval and Early Modern Coins, represented the Society at the annual convention of the American Numismatic Association, July 28-August 2, in New Orleans.

The ANA again this year kindly provided space to the Society on the convention floor for operation of our ANS information booth. Mr. Stahl shared hosting duties at the booth with several Society members who volunteered to give their time to greet visitors on behalf of the ANS. Special thanks for their help is extended to Mark Abramson, Henry Grunthal, Tom Haney, Fred Knobloch, Emmett McDonald, and Dick Picker.

Open from noon to 5:00 P.M. each day, the booth featured sample ANS publications and slide sets together with informational leaflets on membership, user services and photography. A rear-screen projection system provided a continuous showing of famous coins in the ANS collection as well as of Society staff members and views of the museum and library.

quarters in Paris to prepare the final team report. From Paris, Mr. Bates flew to Stockholm for the annual meeting of the Bureau of the International Numismatic Commission.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION TO ANS

A collection of over 2,000 negatives of ancient, mediaeval and early modern coins, medals and decorations has been presented to the American Numismatic Society. The negatives are the gift of the Institute for Ancient History of the University of Saarbrücken, West Germany, which is headed by Professor Peter R. Franke. Mr. Franke served as Visiting Scholar at the 1975 Graduate Seminar, and the gift recognizes the long-standing cooperation between his Institute and the Society.

The negatives, which consist of several German dealers' stocks and a number of private collections, will provide a permanent record of coins now dispersed through the trade, and will be developed as needed for study purposes. The gift was formally presented at the Society on behalf of the University of Saarbrücken by the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Hartmut Schulze-Boysen, and Consul Heiner Horsten.

METCALF ATTENDS CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE

On May 30-31 of this year ANS Chief Curator William Metcalf participated in a conference at Cambridge, England, on the subsidiary coinage of the Roman world. The conference, held at Christ's College, was organized by Michael H. Crawford, Lecturer in Ancient History in the University of Cambridge, and author of *Roman Republican Coinage*, a standard reference work.

Mr. Crawford opened the colloquium with a talk entitled "Who Struck the Greek Imperials?," and other presentations dealt with the coinages of Domitian, the imperial issues of Sardis, countermarking, and imperial patronage at Aphrodisias. Mr. Metcalf's own presentation covered the behavior of the subsidiary coinages and was based on their occurrence in excavation finds from around the Roman world. Other participants in the colloquium included Ian A. Carradice and M. Jessop Price of the British Museum; Ann Johnston, Simon Price and Charlotte Roueché, Cambridge; and Christopher J. Howgego, Oxford.

Metcalf's presence in England afforded him the opportunity to clear up final details regarding the publication of the Society's *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles*, and for visits to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and the British Museum, London.

Calendar

August

- 8 Last day of 1981 ANS Graduate Seminar

September

- 1 SNGANS 6 (*Palestine-South Arabia*) publication date and deadline for members to order SNGANS 6 at reduced price
- 15 *The Wheaton College Collection* (ACNAC) publication date

October

- 10 Fall Members' Meeting of the Society, 3:00 P.M. Guest speaker Brita Malmer, Stockholm Finance Committee Meeting Council Meeting
- 16 *Numismatic Literature* 106 to membership
- 17 Lecture by L. Mildenberg, Caspary Auditorium, Rockefeller University, 3:00 P.M.

November

- 3 Society closed - Election Day
- 3-6 MESA Annual Meeting, Seattle. ANS represented by Michael Bates
- 14 Deadline for submission of material for *Numismatic Literature* 107
- 26-28 Society closed - Thanksgiving weekend

(Computer, continued from page 1)

Bass, Society Director Leslie Elam and Chief Curator William Metcalf at the end of June 1981. Based on this final review, the system was accepted for delivery.

Using the System

The data base for the entire collection comprises only two files: Accession History, in which information about acquisitions either of a single object or of a large collection is recorded; and Coin Record, in which each object in the collection is individually identified and described. An inquiry can select information from either or both of these files.

Information is recorded in any of over 50 fields which have been carefully defined to facilitate rapid search and retrieval within the large files. These fields identify such entities as denomination, mint, weight, date found on the object, or the more complicated obverse type, obverse inscription, even extending to such things as expiration date on paper money or tokens.

To record information about an object, the operator selects the appropriate data entry screen (Greek coins, glass weights, etc.) which displays all the fields related to the object and aids the operator in entering the required information in the correct fields. Once entered, the data can be retrieved either by the entire contents of a field (list all mint field equals Philadelphia) or by a part of the field (list in obverse inscription field all instances where ANT appears, in that order, anywhere in the inscription).

The system is designed to sort information on a complex array of

criteria, involving either all or selected information contained in the fields used in the sort. A number of standard sorts have been stored in the computer's memory and can be made a part of an inquiry with minimal effort; any other desired sort order can be created as needed.

Finally, the system provides for unlimited choice of report configuration. Standard report formats have been devised for various purposes but the user is free to select any combination of fields in any order for presentation on the screen or in print.

One of the report formats is designed for use by research specialists and collectors who volunteer to aid us in recording the collection. It lists all the information which has been entered for a particular object and also lists all the additional fields for which we would like to have further information with appropriate blank spaces where the information can be entered.

A beginning has been made: now, as the recording of our cabinet record goes forward, we are looking to additional applications of the computer system—in bibliographic control both for the Library and for production of *Numismatic Literature*, and extending to our membership and donor records as well as other administrative and business functions.

(Members, continued from page 4)

Reinstatements

The Society is also pleased to welcome back as Associate Members the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich, Germany, and Edward C. Rochette, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

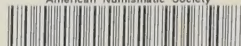
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